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Director,
Bureau of the Census,
Washington, D.C.

The occasional occurrence of families showing unusual 'runs' of boys or of girls is a fact of everyday experience, and has even been exploited to a certain extent in references to Eddie Cantor and other entertainers. There do not, however, seem to exist analyses of such occurrences, directed at determining whether such occurrences can be completely accounted for on the basis of a random distribution of the sexes in a given family, at any rate for U.S. populations. It would be a matter of avocational interest to myself to be acquainted with such an analysis, or, lacking that to enquire as to the availability of data from which to make one. The data that would be required would be tabulations of the sex distributions in families of varying sizes, designated, if possible, by the total number of births. Lacking the latter, a tabulation on the basis of survivors of, say, the fifth year would be satisfactory.

I should be very much obliged for a) the results of any such analyses that may have been performed in your bureau, or lacking this, b) either references to the appropriate information, and if possible, the official publications containing same.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg.